

Press Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STATEMENT OF THOMAS B. PATTON
VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
PHILIPS CONSUMER ELECTRONICS NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION**

**IN SUPPORT OF SENATOR BROWNBACK'S INTRODUCTION OF
THE "CONSUMERS, SCHOOLS, AND LIBRARIES DIGITAL RIGHTS
MANAGEMENT AWARENESS ACT OF 2003"**

WASHINGTON, DC, September 16, 2003 – "Philips wholeheartedly supports S. 1621, the 'Consumers, Schools, and Libraries Digital Rights Management Awareness Act of 2003,' introduced today by Senator Sam Brownback. Senator Brownback and his staff are to be commended for addressing important digital content protection issues in a manner that protects consumers and promotes robust competition and innovation in the content protection software and digital equipment markets.

"Senator Brownback clearly recognizes the twin imperatives of protecting digital content from unauthorized redistribution to the public over the Internet and protecting consumers' 'legal, reasonable and customary' use of digital technologies. These two goals can, must and would co-exist under the approach taken by the Brownback legislation.

"The Brownback bill deserves particular praise for its approach in two critical areas: First, it addresses narrowly-defined digital content protection goals, namely, protecting over-the-air DTV content from unauthorized retransmission to the public over the Internet. By distinguishing between unauthorized retransmission to the public and all other retransmissions, the Brownback bill draws a clear 'line in the sand' against broader restrictions on consumers' use of digital technologies.

"Second, it focuses on functional regulation rather than government pre-selection of technology 'winners and losers' – a critical element to protecting, indeed driving, robust competition and innovation in digital broadcast television content protection software and hardware markets. By contrast, proposals that would have the government put its imprimatur on specific technologies would have precisely the opposite effect,

harming competition and innovation, and consequently threatening consumer acceptance of DTV.

“Philips commends Senator Brownback for his leadership and for his refreshingly pro-consumer approach in this area, and is committed to assisting in any way appropriate as Congress considers this important legislation.”

About Royal Philips Electronics

Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands is one of the world's biggest electronics companies and Europe's largest, with sales of \$30.1 billion (EUR 31.8 billion) in 2002. It is a global leader in color television sets, lighting, electric shavers, medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring, and one-chip TV products. Its 164,000 employees in more than 60 countries are active in the areas of lighting, consumer electronics, domestic appliances, semiconductors, and medical systems. Philips is quoted on the NYSE (symbol: PHG), London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and other stock exchanges. News from Philips is located at www.philips.com/newscenter

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